

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 ACDA-07 A-01 OC-06

CCO-00 OPR-02 SY-05 OMB-01 IO-13 DHA-02 SSM-03 AID-05

MCT-01 OES-06 MED-02 /118 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 091

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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COMSIXTHFLT

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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 9

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REF: BEIRUT 7328

1. SUMMARY: CHAMOUN/ASSAD TALKS SUGGEST SYRIANS READY GIVE POLITICS ANOTHER CHANCE BEFORE REVERTING TO MILITARY SOLUTION. CONTROVERSY CONTINUES ON MODE OF SARKIS INVESTITURE. PALESTINIANS SAID GENERALLY AGREEABLE TO SYRIAN TRUCE PROPOSAL. SAEB SALAM TO VISIT DAMASCUS, JIDDA AND CAIRO. SYRIANS APPARENTLY TEMPORARILY SHUT BORDER, PERHAPS ONLY TO LEFTIST ZONE LEBANESE. LEBANESE REACT TO PRAVDA ARTICLE. NEUTRAL ARMY OFFICERS ANGERED BY COMMANDING GENERAL'S SUPPORT OF PHALANGE. GROUND SITUATION MAINLY STATIC AS BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE. BEIRUT CENTER CITY CROSSPOINT STILL VIRTUALLY CLOSED BY FIGHTING. CONTINUING REPORTS OF ISRAELI INCURSIONS IN FAR SOUTH. CHOLERA REPORTED IN TRIPOLI. END SUMMARY.

2. CHAMOUN. EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT CHAMOUN'S TALKS WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD SEP 8 BROUGHT CHAMOUN, NOT ALWAYS FRIEND OF SYRIANS, AND SYRIAN LEADERSHIP CLOSER TOGETHER. CHAMOUN APPEARS WILLING LET SYRIANS PURSUE POLITICAL SOLUTION UNTIL INVESTITURE OF SARKIS (SEPTTEL).

3. SARKIS INVESTITURE CONTROVERSY. PIERRE GEMAYEL CONFERRED SEP 8 WITH FRANGIE AND SARKIS AND IS REPORTED IN ACCORD WITH FRANGIE ON MEANS AND PLACE FOR SARKIS INAUGURATION (NOT YET ANNOUNCED). MOURABITOUN LEADER IBRAHIM KOLEILAT POINTS OUT CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 50 SAYS PASSING OF POWERS MUST OCCUR BEFORE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND ARTICLE 26 SAYS INVESTITURE HAS TO TAKE PLACE IN BEIRUT. (IN FACT, ARTICLE 26 SAYS "THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SHALL BE LOCATED IN BEIRUT.") HE DENOUNCES SYRIAN PROPOSAL SARKIS BE INAUGURATED AT CHTAURA AS ILLUSTRATING SYRIAN INTENT TO "DISMEMBER LEBANON." JUNBLATT TELLS PRESS IT WOULD BE DEVIATION FROM CORRECT PROCEDURE IF FRANGIE WERE TO SWEAR IN SARKIS BEFORE HIMSELF AND MINISTERS ALONE, AS HIGHEST AUTHORITY IS CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, NOT PRESIDENT.

4. ARAFAT. YASIR ARAFAT CONFERRED SEP 8 WITH ABU-MAHER AND ABU-MAZEN, PALESTINIAN ENVOYS WHO RETURNED SEP 5 TO BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS CARRYING SYRIAN  
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PROPOSAL TO LEFTISTS/PALESTINIANS. TERMS OF PROPOSAL NOT YET CLEAR BUT TWO ENVOYS HAVE NOW AGAIN RETURNED TO SYRIA. TWO ENVOYS REPORTEDLY CARRY PLO APPROVAL OF AMILITARY TRUCE IN LEBANON BUT ALSO PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE CONVENING OF CEASE-FIRE COMMITTEE UNTIL AFTER SARKIS' INAUGURATION, TO CIRCUMVENT LEBANESE LEFTIST-SYRIAN IMPASSE ON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

5. SALAM. SAEB SALAM REPORTED PLANNING DAMASCUS VISIT TO BE FOLLOWED BY VISITS TO JIDDA AND CAIRO, WITH RETURN TO LEBANON BEFORE SARKIS INVESTITUTE. SALAM SAYS PRIVATELY RIGHTIST/PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT IN METN, OF WHICH PAPER SAYS HE HAS COPY, HAS FAILED.

6. RENEWED SYRIAN BORDER DIFFICULTIES. L'ORIENT REPORTS SYRIAN BORDER AUTHORITIES HAVE SUSPENDED ISSUANCE OF BORDER PERMITS TO LEBANESE, UNTIL SEPT 12. APPARENTLY SYRIAN BORDER POSTS HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO DENY ENTRY TO LEBANESE HOLDING PASSPORTS ISSUED BY LEBANESE SECURITY IN WEST BEIRUT UNDER YOUSSEF SLIM, WHILE STILL RESPECTING PASSPORTS ISSUED IN EAST BEIRUT BY COL. ANTOINE DAHDAH.

7. PRAVDA ARTICLE. LOCAL PRESS NOTES PRAVDA ARTICLE ON LEBANON. L'ORIENT LE JOUR CARRIES AFP/REUTERS REPORT THAT DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN MOSCOW BELIEVE THAT ARTICLE IS INDIRECT RESPONSE TO LEBANESE NOTE OF AUG 30 PROTESTING SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS. AL-MUHARRIR SAYS ARTICLE IS "DILUTION" OF SOVIET SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS/ LEFTISTS. EDDE WONDERS IF NEW SOVIET ATTITUDE IS NEW "YALTA AGREEMENT" TO ENHANCE AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN MIDDLE EAST.

8. LEBANESE MILITARY. NEUTRAL MUSLIM LEBANESE ARMY OFFICERS VERY DISPLEASED BY APPEARANCE OF MAJOR GENERAL HANNA SAID AT RECENT KATAEB MILITIA GRADUATION CEREMONY. ONE FACTION PUSHING FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION ON SIDE NATIONAL MOVEMENT NOW THAT COMMANDING GENERAL HAS OVERTLY COME OUT ON RIGHTIST SIDE. OOLER HEADS CAUTION CONTINUED NEUTRALITY UNTIL SARKIS TAKEOVER. CONFIDENTIAL

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SENIOR MUSLIM ARMY OFFICERS SITTING OUT WAR AT HOME ARE ADAMANTLY AGAINST SYRIAN PLAN UNDER WHICH "VANGUARDS" WOULD SERVE AS NUCLEUS OF FUTURE LEBANESE ARMY, WHICH THEY PERCEIVE AS DEVICE FOR SYRIAN DOMINATION.

9. GROUND SITUATION: NORTH AND CENTER. LEFTISTS SAY SYRIANS HAVE AGAIN SHELLLED PALESTINIAN CAMP OF NAHR EL-BARED. RIGHTIST SHELLING OF TRIPOLI CONTINUES. IN THE MOUNTAINS, KAHALE AND ALEY CONTINUE MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS AND KATAEB RADIO ANNOUNCED "VERY VIOLENT BATTLE" AT BDEDOUN. ARTILLERY DUELS CONTINUE IN HIGH METN AND RIGHTISTS CLAIM THEY REPULSED ATTACKS ON BOIS DE BOULOGNE AND MROUJE. LEFTISTS SAY SYRIANS HAVE FIRED ON THEIR POSITIONS AT HEZZERTA AND DHOUR ZAHLE.

RADIO LEBANON (LAA) SAYS SYRIAN FORCES REQUISITIONING HOUSES IN BAALBEK FOLLOWING SEP 6 ANTI-SYRIAN GENERAL STRIKE CALL BY LEFTIST "POPULAR RESISTANCE." LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SAYS THAT SYRIANS ARRESTING STRIKE RING-LEADERS.

10. BEIRUT GROUND SITUATION. CLASHES BETWEEN LEBANESE FRONT AND MOURABITOUN FORCES REPORTED AT MUSEUM CONFRONTATION LINE CROSSING POINT WHERE IMPOTENT AL GROUP REMAINS DUG IN NEAR MINISTRY OF HEALTH. AL COMMANDER THREATENS TO WITHDRAW IF FIGHTING CONTINUES. RIGHTIST BOMBARDMENTS HAVE PARTIALLY DESTROYED SECURITY HEADQUARTERS OCCUPIED BY MOURABITOUN. BARBIR HOSPITAL AND MAQASID MOSQUE SUBJECTED TO CONTINUOUS DIRECT FIRE FOR LAST FIVE DAYS FROM CHAMOUNIST-HELD AREA BY 20 AND 23 MM AA GUNS AND EASTERN WING OF HOSPITAL TOTALLY UNUSABLE. ONLY VERY FEW BRAVE CROSSING ON FOOT. RAIDS AND BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE IN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT. SPORADIC SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS CONTINUES AND EMBASSY BRACKETED BY MORTAR FIRE LATE SEP 8. IN SUBURBS, GALERIE SEMAAN CROSSROADS VERY HOT WITH BOMBARDMENTS AND REPORTS OF LIMITED GROUND ACTION. SHELLING CONTINUES AT AIN EL-RUMMANEH, CHIYAH, HADETH, KFARCHIMA AND CHOUEIFAT.

11. IN THE SOUTH. Wafa SUPPORTS LEFTIST CLAIMS (SITREP SEP 8) THAT ISRAELI FORCES NOW OCCUPYING FIVE LEBANESE BORDER  
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VILLAGES, AND SAYS ISRAEL HAS GIVEN RIGHTISTS IN AREA SIX TANKS (WHICH WE BELIEVE DOUBTFUL). OTHER SOURCES ALSO SAY ISRAELI TROOPS HAVE INDEED MOVED INTO POSITIONS ON LEBANESE SIDE OF FRONTIER. MOVEMENT MAY FOLLOW PROTECTION REQUEST BY CHRISTIAN VILLAGES. PRESS ADDS JEZZINE-ROUM AXIS TO LIST OF "TRADITIONAL FRONTS" AS ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE.

12. HEALTH SITUATION. LEFTIST PRESS AND RIGHTIST RADIO REPORT SOME 100 CASES OF CHOLERA IN BESEIGED CITY OF TRIPOLI. FIVE PERSONS SAID TO HAVE DIED. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION.  
LANE

## Message Attributes

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